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PROCEEDINGS AND PAPERS  
OF  
THE KILKENNY AND SOUTH-EAST OF IRELAND  
ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.  
FOR THE YEAR 1856.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, held in the Tholsel Rooms, Kilkenny,  
on Wednesday, January 2nd, 1856,

ROBERT CANE, ESQ., M. D., in the Chair.

The Rev. James Graves, Honorary Secretary, stated, that he had the pleasure to announce that his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland had done them the honour of consenting to become a Member and Patron of the Society. He had received the following letter on the subject from his Excellency's Private Secretary :—

*" Viceregal Lodge, December 31, 1855.*

" REV. SIR,—I am directed by the Lord Lieutenant to inform you, in reply to your letter of the 27th inst., that his Excellency will be happy to become a Member and Patron of the Kilkenny Archæological Society.

" I am, Rev. Sir,

" Your very obedient servant,

" FREDERICK HOWARD.

" *Rev. James Graves.*"

The following new Members were also elected :—

The Hon. L. H. King Harman, D. L., Newcastle, Ballymahon ;  
G. Fosbery Lyster, Esq., C. E., Resident Engineer, Harbour  
Works, Guernsey ; and M. W. Daly, Esq., M. D., F. R. C. S. I.,  
82, Stephen's-green, South, Dublin : proposed by the Very Rev.  
the Dean of Leighlin.

William R. Seymour Fitzgerald, Esq., M. P., Holbrook Park, Horsham, Sussex, and Ballylinch, county of Kilkenny : proposed by Robert B. Wright, Esq.

Miss Matilda Coneys, Glen Bevan, Croom, county of Limerick ; Frederick May, Esq., Bailiff of Taunton, High-street, Taunton ; Samuel Edward Busby, Esq., Anglesea-street, Dublin ; Robert H. Brackstone, Esq., Lyncombe Hill, Bath ; John J. Lyons, Esq., Architect, "Irish Reporter" Office, D'Olier-street, Dublin ; and John Dawson Duckett, Esq., J. P., Duckett's Grove, Carlow : proposed by R. Hitchcock, Esq.

The Rev. William Tarbotton, Limerick ; and the Rev. John Service, Youghal : proposed by Nicholas Peterson, Esq.

James Swanton, Esq., A. B., Rineen, Skibbereen : proposed by the Rev. G. Vance.

Charles C. Haines, Esq., Mallow : proposed by W. Gillespie, Esq.

Henry Baschet, Esq., Exchange-street, Waterford : proposed by John G. Davis, Esq.

John Laffan, Esq., Main-street, Lismore : proposed by Alexander Anderson, Esq.

Rev. Thomas O'Farrell, R. C. C., Cloyne ; and John Litton, Esq., Solicitor, 26, Lower Leeson-street, Dublin : proposed by E. Fitzgerald, Esq.

James T. Lyons, Esq., Solicitor, 9, Henrietta-street, Dublin : proposed by M. A. O'Brennan, Esq., LL. D.

William Homan Newell, Esq., LL. D., Glenbrook, Passage West, Cork : proposed by the Rev. James Graves.

The Mechanics' Institute, Wexford : proposed by Mr. Prim.

The Honorary Secretary then read the following Annual Report for 1855 :—

In laying their Report before the Members, your Committee cannot but feel that it is a matter for congratulation that the Kilkenny and South-East of Ireland Archæological Society has now arrived at the close of its *Seventh Session* without exhibiting any of those marks of decline which voluntary societies are wont to feel long ere they arrive at such a "good old age." An increasing list, subscriptions well paid up, full value given to the Members in the printed "Transactions" of the Society, and all arrears in the issuing of the latter cleared off, are sufficient indications of the vitality of the Society.

One hundred and twenty-eight new names have been added to the roll of Members during the past year, giving a large excess over the losses by death, withdrawal, and a stringent revisal of the list, whereby all Members two years and upwards in arrear have been struck off. The names of the defaulters have not, however, been finally removed from the books of the Society ; they will be restored on the payment of the subscriptions due.

In the meantime, however, the issue of the "Transactions" to all Members thus in arrear has been suspended. This measure your Committee have been compelled to adopt, as the prosperity of the Society depends on punctuality and promptness in paying the small sum which forms the annual subscription.

While on this subject, your Committee would seek to impress on the minds of the Members in general the folly of entailing on the Society a large expenditure in postage, printing, and stationery, caused solely by the necessity for repeated calls for subscriptions. Were each Member to transmit his subscription to the Acting Treasurer before the close of the month of January in each year, this useless expense would be obviated, and the amount saved might be devoted to the legitimate objects of the Association.

Your Committee have seen the necessity of establishing a voluntary fund, irrespective of the small annual subscription, and recommend their successors to issue a circular which has been prepared for that purpose.

The bi-monthly issue of the Society's publications has given general satisfaction, and it is hoped that with the commencement of this year's issue, which forms the first part of Vol. I., New Series, further improvements will be introduced; such, for instance, as a more frequent use of first-class wood engravings. This, however, in a great degree, must depend on more extended support. Your Committee, therefore, whilst thanking those who have proved good recruiting officers during the past year, would impress on the minds of the Members in general the necessity for enlisting fresh supporters during the year we are now entering on.

Amongst many names removed by death from the list of Members during the past year, your Committee have to deplore the loss of their Dublin Corresponding Member, James Frederick Ferguson, Esq. The office of Keeper of the Ancient Records of the Irish Exchequer, which Mr. Ferguson so long filled without fee or reward, gave him access to the genuine sources of Irish history, and these he was ever ready to impart to the historical inquirer. Courteous, gentle, and unselfish, yet firm in the discharge of his duty as guardian of the invaluable national property confided to his care, his place cannot be easily filled, even were it more the practice than it has hitherto been to seek out the right man for the right place. As it is, his loss is irreparable to the public at large, no less than to this Society, the pages of whose "Transactions" have been enriched by many contributions from his pen. At the period of his death he was engaged in completing a translation of the ancient Norman-French "Chronicle of the Conquest of Ireland," edited, in the original language, by M. Francisque Michel, from a MS. in Lambeth Library. As the Members are aware, it was proposed to commence this valuable contribution to Irish history with the January part of the Society's "Transactions." This project Mr. Ferguson's unexpected death has caused to be deferred; but it is hoped that, by the promised aid of another energetic Member of the Society, also well skilled in the language in which the poem is written, John P. Prendergast, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, Mr. Ferguson's labours, so far, may not be finally lost to the Society.

The Museum and Library have been enriched by many contributions, enumerated at large in the reports of the proceedings of the several Meet-

ings of the past year. The printing of a Catalogue has, however, been necessarily deferred for the present, without being finally abandoned.

In conclusion, your Committee would recommend that the Accounts of the Society be brought up for the future at the March Meeting; and that two Auditors, appointed by the General Meeting in January, shall attend an hour before the time appointed for the Meeting, and, having examined the Treasurer's Accounts, report thereon to the Members.

The Report was unanimously adopted by the Meeting.

On the motion of Mr. Abraham Denroche, Messrs. James George Robertson and John Francis Shearman were requested to act as Auditors.

On the motion of Mr. J. F. Shearman, the Officers of the last year were re-elected, with the following—

#### COMMITTEE :

JAMES S. BLAKE, Esq., J. P., Barrister-at-Law.  
 REV. JOHN BROWNE, LL. D., Principal of Kilkenny College.  
 JOSEPH BURKE, Esq., Barrister-at-Law.  
 SAMSON CARTER, Esq., C. E., M. R. I. A.  
 THE VERY REV. JOHN EGAN, P. P.  
 REV. LUKE FOWLER, A. M.  
 JOHN JAMES, Esq., L. R. C. S. I.  
 THE VERY REV. THE DEAN OF LEIGHLIN.  
 REV. PHILIP MOORE, R. C. C.  
 MATTHEW O'DONNELL, Esq., Barrister-at-Law.  
 THE VERY REV. THE DEAN OF WATERFORD.  
 JOHN WINDELE, Esq.

The following presentations were received, and thanks ordered to be given to the donors :—

By John Turner, Esq., Principal of the Dundalk Institution :  
 “A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland,” by Samuel Lewis.  
 2 Vols.

By J. W. Hanna, Esq. : “Anglo-Norman Poem on the Conquest of Ireland by Henry the Second,” edited by Francisque Michel.

By the Publisher : “The Builder,” Nos. 666 to 673, inclusive.

By the Society : “Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire,” Vol. VII.

By the Cambrian Institute : “The Cambrian Journal,” part 7.

By the Institute : “Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Natural History,” Vol. II. No. 4.

By the Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland : their “Journal,” No. 47.

By the Architectural and Archaeological Society of the County of Buckingham : "Records of Buckinghamshire," No. 4.

By R. Dowden (Richard), Esq., and Nicholas Peterson, Esq. : "Report of the Cork Cuvierian Society for the Session 1854-55."

By the Society : "Proceedings of the Numismatic Society of London," Session 1853-54.

By Miss Maria Nixon : "The Leinster Journal," Kilkenny, Saturday, October 30th, 1819, exclusively devoted to a report of the Kilkenny Amateur Theatricals.

By Edward Fitzgerald, Esq. : three rubbings from the newly discovered Ogham inscriptions at Ardmore. Mr. Fitzgerald also contributed sketches and a paper on these interesting antiquities, which will be laid before the March Meeting of the Society.

By Richard Hitchcock, Esq. : the three bracteate coins exhibited by him at the September Meeting, being a portion of a large number discovered in a cairn on Scrabo Hill, in the county of Down.—See vol. iii. p. 373, for an engraving of the most remarkable amongst them.

By Patrick Keating, Esq., M.D. : a portion of the ancient carved timber roof of the chancel of the parish church of Callan, county of Kilkenny ; and also a rounded stone, weighing  $7\frac{1}{2}$  lbs., believed to have been used as a cannon ball in former times, found in his garden, near the old town wall of Callan.

The Rev. James Graves stated that the roof of Callan Church had been taken down by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in the summer of 1854, being in a dangerous state from decay. On removing the lath and plaster ceiling, the original carved timber roof, of the beginning of the fifteenth century, was revealed. This having been taken down, the timber, as old material, passed into the hands of the contractor, Mr. Kingsmill, of Kilkenny, who, at his (Mr. Graves') suggestion, had presented to the Society such portions as remained with him. At a future day he (Mr. Graves) purposed to enter into a detailed account, with suitable illustrations, of this, one of the few remnants of carved timber church roofs existing in Ireland.

By Henry Baschet, Esq. : a fragment of a coat of arms, in plaster, apparently those of one of the Popes, which had been found on his own premises in Waterford.

By the Very Rev. John Egan, P. P., Birr : a Roman brass of Domitian, and a modern Turkish coin.

By William Atkinson, Esq., C.E. : a base penny of one of the Edwards, found in a field near the Thomastown Railway Station.

By the Rev. James Graves : a Kilkenny token, Edward Roth's penny, in good preservation.

Richard Caulfield, Esq., A.B., Cork, forwarded a fac-simile in lithograph of an ancient roll of the fourteenth century, preserved

in the Diocesan Registry of Cloyne, being the record of the property, &c. of the See, *temp.* Bishop Swafham, and entitled, "Pipa Colmani." Mr. Caulfield is preparing this interesting ancient document for publication, and intends printing it should he obtain a sufficient number of subscribers at 5s. each.

The Rev. James Graves contributed the following curious letter, addressed to the Duke of Ormonde, copied by him from the original in the Evidence Chamber, Kilkenny Castle. The letter enclosed a memorial addressed to M. Le Page, his Grace's secretary, written in French; the original is given below with a translation made by Mr. Henry Baschet, Professor of French to the Waterford Mechanics' Institute, one of the Members elected this day. The writer of the letter and memorial, Captain Archer, appears to have been a member of the Kilkenny family of that name :<sup>1</sup>—

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE,

"The good news giuen us by the last Pacquet, together with Secretarie Pages Indisposission gaue me the libertie to truble your Grace with this inclosed Petition which I durst [not] vinter to doe till now. May it please your Grace after finishing & perclosinge the one halfe of the Bridge of Carrick<sup>2</sup> in ten weeks tyme I fell a woorkinge of the Roks in the River below your Graces hous in Carrick, so that in ten days tyme I made a Rode thorough the s<sup>d</sup> Roks of 80 or a hundred yards broad for bottoms of 30, 40, 50, or 60 tons to saile, without any danger, to the Kaye of Carrick, as M<sup>r</sup> Countrowler can justifie he being an eie witnes of what is don there. Captaine Mathew offered to pay me for what monny I layed out for that woork, which I would not accept of, beinge soe insignificant a sume, the mater of 3<sup>li</sup> more or lesse, & I doe think it too litle a thinge togeether with my one labour to bestow vpon such a great desein, soe that Carrick wants nothing to make it considerable but the establishing of a Custime hous there.

<sup>1</sup> The Evidence Chamber contains also a detailed Report on the best mode of erecting fortifications, addressed by him to the Duke of Ormonde, at his Grace's own desire; dated from London, 17th February, 1670-71: and on October 22, 1678, we find him writing to the Earl of Orrery, Lord President of Munster, from Rincorran Castle. This letter is a Report on the fortifications which Archer was erecting there: he states that the second battery was raised platform-high, that he was about to commence the arch of the store-house, and that the guard-house was well advanced.

<sup>2</sup> *The Bridge of Carrick.*—The structure still existing, there can be little doubt, is that repaired by Captain Archer. It is narrow, with numerous arches, and recesses

over the cutwaters, to enable passengers to get out of the way of vehicles, &c. In the centre there is a square enlargement on either side for a gate-tower; a nailer has built a small house on the upper side, and plies his trade there; the tower has been long since removed. The date of the first erection of Carrick bridge is an early one, for we find Edward III., in the thirtieth year of his reign, granting certain customs, for twenty years, to aid in building the bridge of the said town over the water of "Shoure," to be constructed of lime and stone. This would appear to be the date of the building of the bridge; for although we find some earlier charters of pontage granted to the town, they would seem not to have been properly administered.

"Your Graces house in Carrick<sup>1</sup> is at present stansh for five yeers, if noe new breaches be made by future stormes, and it did cost about 14<sup>11</sup> a litle more or lesse, may it please your Grace, your Graces ill wishers boath Inglish and Irish make it now of late their business of *copiing of a booke intituled A Naratiue of the Earle of Clarandons Settlement and Sale of Irland*,<sup>2</sup> and spreding the same amoungst the people, wherin its sett forth publicly amoungst that factious people that your Grace is the onely man that destroyed the Irish nation by hindringe them of nott beinge included in the Act of indimnitie; although all those stratagemes cannot preiudice your Grace in the least, yeet their intintion is malicious, and I in dutie bound to acquaint your Grace of what I heere to y<sup>t</sup> nature, and to remane till Death

"Your Graces is faithful

"seruant & follower,

"JA: ARCHER.

"*Dublin, Xber y<sup>e</sup> first 1668.*"

Endorsed in the Duke's own hand :—

"Capt. Archer,

"Dat. 1 }  
"Rec. 8 } Dec. 1668."

"MONSIEUR & TRES HONNORÉ AMY,

"Il me souvien estant a Kilkenny que sa Grace ma demandé sil aurait moyen de faire venir des vesseaux Jusques a Carrick mais mainten<sup>t</sup>. Je suis plus Capable a luy satisfaire que ie n estois en ce temps la, car depuis mon retour icy de Kilkenny Jay este Visiter tous les endroits les plus diffisils qui puis donner empechem<sup>t</sup> aux Vesseaux, Brefe Je ne treuve aucune difficulte de randre la Riviere tout a fait navigable pour mounter Barques de 20 a 30 tons Jusques aux pied du pont de Carrick, & a fort peu de depençe, & pour parler la bouche eouvert qui auroit songé á ce la lesté passé. 30 shillings seulement ferroit la faire, & a present Je croy que doublant la dict somme le ferroit anedir vn peu plus ou moins, & come sa Grace est du Santiment de randre sa ville de Carrick considerable & la faire fleurir a Jamais en Restablisant la Commers le pouuant Commodement, elle seroit assurément vne des meillieurs petites villes D'Ireland, sa situatione estant si advantagieux & le moyen pour ce faire le voy cy Scavoir, si sa Grace pouvoit s'accommoder avec

<sup>1</sup> *Your Grace's house in Carrick.*—This, the finest baronial castle remaining in Ireland, still stands, although sadly dilapidated. The same sum expended by Archer with such good effect would now also render "stansh" its stout old oaken roof, and so save from utter ruin the splendid stuccoed ornaments of the Elizabethan period which enrich the ceilings and walls.

<sup>2</sup> *Copiing of a booke intituled A Naratiue of the Earle of Clarandons Settlement and*

*Sale of Irland.*—This piece of intelligence is curious, and shows how large a party seconded the attack on the Duke of Ormonde by Bishop French, in the book the title of which is given above. The mode used of multiplying the work by copying it shows that many copies of the printed book had not found their way as yet into Ireland. It was printed at Louvain in the beginning of this very year, and reprinted in 1704, under a somewhat different title.



le fermier des Customs, ou de quel autre manier pour establir vn Custome houe a Carrick afin que les vesseaux destiné pour les marchands de Carrick et de Clonmell ne fussent obligé a decharger leur marchandise a Waterford; & si ce la ce pouvoit estre menage ainsi, Je vous peu bien assurer mons<sup>r</sup> que sa Grace Veroit des vesseaux francois chargé du Vign et du Sel a la Kay de Carrick: devant la fin du mois de mars prochein, & consequament des Vesseaux despaigne de hollande & de tout autres lieux de l'europe, pour veu que la commers de la mere soit libre, et par cest moyen Inviteroit des marchands de Kilkenny, de Cassell, de Clonmell, & mesme de Waterforde de venir demurer et Bastir des belles maisons a Carrick, et apres nous devons esperrer mil autre advages qui deveroit Suivre en Cruss. Mais sans dout ceux de Waterford s'opposeroient fort et ferme Countre Ceste Commers cy de sus alegent que le le Roy seroit interessé, & moy je soutiendray le countraire, & que le Roy en profiteroit plutost & le pais s'enrichiroit la reson en est évident, car si ceux de waterford ne recoivent point le droict des dict Vesseaux cela se treuveroit au double a Carrick. Quand ie dirois cant pour vn, par ce que tous les marchands de Carrick et de Clonmell quils ne fount rien apresant pour lors ils marcheroient, et quantité dautres Resons pouroient estre dicts sil le tamps permettoit, au Rest sa Grace en Vsera selon son bon plaisir: & tous ce que J'en dis provien purement et simplement de l'inclination que Jay pour les Interest de sa Grace et de sa maison De la quelle Je promet solemnellement devant Dieu que Je ne me detacheray Jamais durant ma Vie, et au de la du tombeau, oye M<sup>r</sup>. Je prenois plaisir de sacrifier ma Vie et ma fortune dans les interres de Mons<sup>r</sup>g<sup>r</sup>. le Duc et cels de mon maistre monsieur le Counte Dossory. Pourquoy, parce quils m'ont obligé de si bonne grace et de dans ma plus grand necessité, cest pourquoy Monsieur Je vous en coniure: me faire la faveur sil vous plaist: d'assurer à sa Grace, que lors que Je ne seray plus Vtil pour le service de sa Grace, que je ne pretand point de plus Viure dans ce monde: Cest pourquoy Mons<sup>r</sup>. Je attandray tousiours l'honneur de ces Commendements pour luy aller servir Jusques au bout du monde:—Mons<sup>r</sup>. sa Grace má parlé a Kilkenny de faire Vne glasiere proch sa maison de Carrick mais toutes ouvragés qui se foint de ces espee lá en hivre rarement soint ils bonnes, et pour faire une glasiere et assuree il foudroit commenser au printemps pour mieux faire: Cest se Monsieur ce que iay a vous dir a present & que Je suis tres passionement.

“ Monsieur Vostre tres humble et tres obeisent seruiteur

“ JA ARCHER

“ Carrick le 26. 9bre  
“ 1667”

Addressed:—

“ Monsieur  
Monsieur le page secretaire à sa grace  
Mons<sup>r</sup>g<sup>r</sup> le Duc Dormond à  
Dublin.”

The following is Mr. Baschet's translation :—

“SIR, & VERY HONOURED FRIEND,

“I remember when in Kilkenny that his Grace asked me if it would be possible to bring ships up to Carrick; but now I am more capable of satisfying him than I was at that time, for since my return here from Kilkenny I have visited all the most difficult spots which might cause hindrance to ships: in fact I do not find any difficulty to render the river quite navigable for Barks of 20 or 30 tons to come up as far as the foot of Carrick bridge, and at very little expense; and, to speak openly, who would have thought of that last summer? 30 shillings only would do the work, and now I believe that by doubling the said sum it could yet be done, not to say, a little more or less; and as his Grace intends to render his town of Carrick considerable, and to cause it to flourish for ever by re-establishing the trade, being able to do it conveniently, it would assuredly be one of the best small towns in Ireland, its situation being so advantageous. And the means to do this is this, namely, If his Grace could enter into some arrangement with the Farmer of Customs, or in any other manner so as to establish a Custom House at Carrick, in order that the ships addressed to the Carrick merchants and those of Clonmel should not be obliged to unload their merchandise at Waterford; and if that could be thus arranged, I can assure you positively, Sir, that his Grace would see French ships laden with wine and salt at Carrick Quay before the end of next March, and consequently ships from Spain and Holland, and from all other places in Europe, supposing that the commerce of the Sea was free; and this would be the means of inviting Kilkenny, Cashel, Clonmel, and even Waterford merchants to come to live and build fine houses in Carrick, and afterwards we hope a thousand other advantages which ought to follow increasing. But no doubt those of Waterford would oppose the above mentioned trade, strongly and firmly alleging that the King would be concerned, and I, I will maintain the contrary, and that the King would rather profit by it, and that the country would be enriched. The reason of it is evident, for if those of Waterford do not receive the duty of the said ships, it would double itself at Carrick. Even if I said One Hundred to One, because all the Carrick and Clonmel merchants who do nothing now would then stir themselves. And many other reasons can be given if the time permitted: however, his Grace can do as he thinks fit: and all that I say regarding it comes purely and simply from the inclination which I have for the interests of his Grace and of his house, from which I promise solemnly before God that I will never detach myself during my life, and beyond the tomb. Hear, Sir! I would feel a pleasure in sacrificing my life and my fortune in the interests of My Lord the Duke and those of my master The Count of Ossory. Why? because they have obliged me with so good a grace and in my greatest necessity,—that is the reason why, Sir, I entreat of you to do me the favour, if you please, to assure his Grace that when I shall be no longer useful in the service of his Grace, I intend not to live any longer in this world: That, Sir, is the reason why I shall always expect to be honoured with his commands to go to serve him to the end of the world.—Sir, his Grace spoke to me at Kilkenny about constructing an Ice House near his house in Carrick, but all works of that kind which

are done in Winter are seldom good, and to make a solid Ice House it would be necessary to begin in the Spring, to do it better. This is, Sir, what I have to say to you at present, and that I am very affectionately,

“ Sir, Your most humble and very obedient servant,

“ J. A. ARCHER.

“ *Carrick, the 26th of November,*  
1667.”

Addressed :—

“ *Mons.*

*Mons. Lepage, Secretary to his Grace*  
*My Lord the Duke of Ormond, at*  
*Dublin.*”

Mr. Prim said, that as the town bell of Kilkenny, which had tolled the curfew for several generations, had that morning been cracked in ringing the new Mayor into office, and would, therefore, no doubt, have to be recast, he wished to place on record the inscription which it bore :—

“ CIVITATIS KILKENNIE. JOHN BLUNDEN MAY<sup>R</sup> 1730”

Of course this was not the original town bell, for the curfew was probably introduced into Kilkenny by the English colony planted there by William, Earl Marshal, in the thirteenth century, although the earliest mention which was to be found of it in the municipal archives was in 1609. On the 9th February, in that year, the Corporation issued an order that “ All persons, on hearing the alarm-bell, shall resort to the market-place on pain of two shillings fine.” This rising out of the *posse civitatis* was intended to provide against any sudden incursion of a marauding enemy, or to prevent the escape of plunderers with their booty, after the manner of the raid of the Irishrie in New Ross, which occasioned the inclosing of that town with mural defences, as graphically described by that quaintest and raciest of chroniclers, Stanihurst. This was apparent enough from another by-law of the Kilkenny Corporation, passed on the 14th February, 1616, which was as follows, the latter portion being undecipherable to the copyist of the Red Book, in the last century, since which time the book itself had been lost :—

“ Ordered that twelve halberts shall be carried at the Assizes, to wait on the Mayor and Sheriffs, eight on the Mayor, and two on each of the Sheriffs, and that the halberts shall be carried by seemly young men of the Merchants’ Guild, to whom the Constables shall give warning to attend, and to be chosen every Assizes; and that all shopkeepers shall have their weapons in their shops, and every man to rise out armed at the alarm or orders of the Mayor; that at such alarm such as dwell near the gates shall lock and guard the gates, and if any person then escapes out of the gates, the twelve householders next the gate on each side to be fined, at the discretion of the Mayor; that the Aldermen shall divide themselves to the

several wards, and take the names of all from 16 to 60, and all such as are . . . . . and unsettled persons, and for whom the ward . . . . . to be apprehended by the Sheriffs and committed till they find security."

Although the bell bore date 1730, it would seem that it had not been erected for at least three months after the expiration of that year, as the following order respecting it had been placed on the minutes of the Corporation on the 31st March, 1731 :—

"Then ordered that in case the Tholsell Bell, which was sent up to Dublin to be new cast, be not sent down by the fifth day of May next to be properly fixt up, That Alderman Lodge shall Immediately afterwards apply to the Person or Persons that received the Old Bell, for the same, and cause one of the small kind to be immediately prepared at the City's Expence and sent down hither forthwith:—Memorand. The weight of the Broken pieces of the old Bell sent up to Mr. Price was 2 cwt 3 qrs., by Mr. Percevall."

It has been the custom from time immemorial that the town bell of Kilkenny shall ring out not only on all occasions of meetings of the Corporation, and on the proceeding of the Mayor to attend his own Court of "Conscience," and the Assizes, Quarter Sessions and Petty Sessions Courts, but each Friday, in the forenoon, to announce the arrival of fish in the market; as also, whenever necessary, to give the alarm of fire, and every day regularly at 6 o'clock A.M., and 9 o'clock P.M. This latter arrangement is said to be a relic of ancient usage, established for the purpose of notifying that the time had arrived for apprentices to rise to their work, and to retire again to bed. The night bell seems never, in modern times at least, to have been termed "the curfew" in Kilkenny. Amongst the vulgar it has been usually known as "the blackguard bell," and the origin of that designation is believed to be, that persons continuing to walk the streets after the bell had tolled should be looked upon as dissolute characters. It is more probable, however, that it arose from an ancient municipal regulation for the prevention of the appearance of suspicious characters in the streets in the night-time. Casual visitors were particularly obnoxious to suspicion in the olden time, when every person unknown to the authorities was esteemed as most likely to be an enemy to the community, lurking in the town for the purpose of taking an opportunity of doing some mischief to the inhabitants; and it was in this spirit that the Corporation of Kilkenny enacted a by-law on the 9th February, 1609, ordaining that "No stranger shall walk the streets after nine o'clock at night."

The following paper was then submitted to the Meeting.